

The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout the Commonwealth

September 2010 Edition

Welcome

Welcome to the September edition of the Heart Line newsletter, a publication by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS).

With October just around the corner, that can only mean it is time to start talking about Make A Difference Day. In this newsletter edition, you will learn more about this year's initiative, as well as read about contests sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, a spotlight on Commissioner Kevin Russell and an update on the 2010-11 Kentucky AmeriCorps programs.

Also, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of our community service programs, such as AmeriCorps, the Governor's Volunteer Awards, the Volunteer Insurance Program or the Volunteer Recognition Program.

2011 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Contests



The Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission is soliciting nominations for the annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Citizenship Award**.

The award is given to an individual that embodies the spirit and energy of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission is also seeking essays and artwork for the esteemed **King Award for 2011** with the theme: *Dream, Act, Inspire*. Kindergarten to 12th grade students may submit an essay or two-dimensional artwork that reflects the student's most inspired Dr. King moment or speech in concert with the theme stating how he/she is using that inspiration to shape their lives and communities.

Deadline for Entries: Nov. 5, 2010

MLK Citizenship Award, <http://tinyurl.com/MLKCitizenshipAward>

MLK Essay and Arts Contest, <http://tinyurl.com/MLKContest>

MLK Essay Criteria, <http://tinyurl.com/MLKEssayCriteria>

MLK Art Criteria, <http://tinyurl.com/MLKArtCriteria>

Make A Difference Day 2010



By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Media and Publications Specialist

Make A Difference Day is one of the most widely observed national days of helping – a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors in which everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event observed on the fourth Saturday of October. This year, Make A Difference Day falls on **Oct. 23**.

The KCCVS traditionally sponsors a campaign to collect as much non-perishable food as possible as part of its Make A Difference Day observance. Collected food is donated to food pantries and emergency feeding centers in the communities where the food is collected.

KCCVS is sponsoring one food drive involving our Kentucky AmeriCorps programs and another among Cabinet for Health and Family Services' community-based service regions.

A special, separate competition was held last year involving all state agencies. While that competition will not be going on this year, it is still possible (and encouraged) to participate in the food drive. Groups can collect and donate nonperishable food in their community and report the collected amount to KCCVS for recognition.



First Lady Jane Beshear presents the Make A Difference Day Traveling Award to SERV Corps. SERV Corps members (left to right) Billie Tankersley, Rockcastle County Schools; Carrie Tuttle, Garrard County Schools; Dixie Lockard, Powell County Schools; and Tammy Dowell, Danville Independent Schools.

Not only will the winning program and region earn bragging rights for a year, but they will receive a special Make A Difference Day Traveling Award, which remains with the winner for one year and travels to reside with each successive winner. If a program or region wins the award three consecutive years, it is theirs to keep. The award is presented in the spring at the annual Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

During the 2009 Make A Difference Day Food Drive, more than 123 tons of food was collected and distributed to

local food pantries and emergency feeding centers - enough food to feed 493,087 Kentuckians an 8-ounce serving. Kentucky's project won one of 10 national awards and a \$10,000 award that was shared among nonprofits, including the food banks represented by the three AmeriCorps programs that brought in record-breaking collection amounts.

Last year, 105.94 tons of food was collected by the Kentucky AmeriCorps programs – enough to feed 423,745 Kentuckians! SERV Corps won the challenge, reporting 45,096 ounces per member! MSU Corps placed second with 23,258 ounces per member and The Learning Corps rounded out the top three with 19,906 ounces per member.

Last year, 4.38 tons of food was collected by the DCBS service regions – enough to feed 17,517 Kentuckians. The Lakes Service Region collected the most food, reporting almost 182 ounces per employee.



Learn more about the KCCVS Make A Difference Day initiative at <http://chfs.ky.gov/dfrcv/kccvs/madd>. Learn more about the national effort at <http://makeadifferenceday.com>.

Commissioner Spotlight: Kevin Russell

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Media and Publications Specialist



Kevin Russell was born in Detroit, but he attended elementary, junior high and high school in Nashville. After briefly attending Tennessee State University, Kevin joined the United States Army. He served for more than 20 years before retiring as Staff Sergeant with many awards, including a Bronze Star for valor while serving in Operation Desert Storm.

Although retired from the Army, Kevin still works at Fort Knox as a Tank System Mechanic. He holds double bachelor's degrees in computer information systems and computer information management from McKendree University.

Besides serving on the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) since 2009, Kevin is a Life Member of the Nashville chapter of NAACP; a 25-year active member and Past Master of Hub City Lodge No. 172, Prince Hall Masons in Elizabethtown; a 20-year active member and Past Potentate of Damascus Shrine Temple No. 58 A.E.A.O.N.M.S.

(Shriners) and a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

Kevin is a member of Heritage International Christian Church in Radcliff, where he serves as deacon, volunteers the church book store and is a member of the League of Honorable Men ministry. A self-professed born-again Christian, his life philosophies are the Golden Rule — “Treat people the way you want to be treated” and “Love your neighbors as you love yourself.”

Kevin has been married to Linda D. Walker for 25 years and they have two children, Marcus and Stephanie, and a 9-month-old grandson named Jarrell.

His goal in life is to be known as a good, trustworthy person who cared about his fellow man/woman. He wants to make a positive impact on his community and therefore, would like to be more involved in local politics.

He enjoys serving on the KCCVS because he knows the huge impact the AmeriCorps program makes on local communities. “AmeriCorps is a fantastic program, and I look forward contributing as much time and effort as possible in supporting it.”

Kevin is a big football fan, and he enjoys rooting for the Louisville Cardinals. His favorite movie is “The Wizard of Oz.” He is also actively involved with American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. He walked 23 miles at the 2010 relay in Radcliff, and plans to walk his first full 26-mile marathon for cancer research in the fall.

Kevin brings a vast array of experience and knowledge to the KCCVS, and we are honored to have him serve as a commissioner.

Dates:

Oct. 4 - Child Health Day

Oct. 11 - Columbus Day

Oct. 16 - Boss's Day

Oct. 23 - Make A Difference Day, <http://makeadifferenceday.com/>

Oct. 31 - Halloween

AmeriCorps Update

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Media and Publications Specialist

The 2010-11 AmeriCorps program year began Sept. 1. Of the 16 programs, five are new programs to KCCVS. Currently, program sites are located in 79 Kentucky counties, although many sites serve more than one county. Check out the 2010-11 AmeriCorps Program Map, <http://tinyurl.com/2010-11acmap>, to see where the sites are located. A few programs still have openings for sites and members; please visit the KCCVS website, <http://chfs.ky.gov/dfrcvs/kccvs/ameriCorps/programs>, to find out contact information for the program directors, or apply online at <http://AmeriCorps.gov>.



Kentucky will benefit from the service of 651 AmeriCorps members: 402 full-time (1,700 hours), 30 half-time (900 hours), 164 quarter-time (450 hours) and 55 minimum-time (300 hours).

Typically, new and returning AmeriCorps members receive training and take part in an induction ceremony at the annual AmeriCorps Launch in the fall. Due to a variety of factors, the traditional launch will not be held this year. Instead, a mid-year event is planned for January 2011 in which members will receive training and participate in a reaffirmation of the AmeriCorps pledge.

“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

-- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Download the print version of this newsletter and past editions on the KCCVS Newsletter page on our website, <http://chfs.ky.gov/dfrcvs/kccvs/newsletter>.

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